

FACT SHEET



Newton County Mine Tailings Newton County, Missouri

July 1999



Availability Session Announcement

**EPA will hold an availability session
from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on:**

**Wednesday, July 7, 1999,
Granby City Hall,
302 North Main
Granby, Missouri**

**Agency representatives will be
available to discuss site activities
and answer questions about the site.
All interested community members
are encouraged to attend.**

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to oversee activities at the Newton County Mine Tailings Site. Based on sample results, EPA determined that a cleanup action is necessary at the site. Lead contaminated residential yard soil will be excavated in historic mining areas. The cleanup activities are scheduled to start the week of July 12, 1999.

EPA, the Blue Tee Corp. and ASARCO signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to investigate and clean up the site. Under the AOC, representatives for the Blue Tee Corp. and ASARCO will excavate contaminated yards at residences and child care facilities. EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will continue to oversee all site activities.

Background

The Newton County Mine Tailings site is an inactive lead and zinc mining area in southwest Missouri. Lead and zinc were mined in Newton County from approximately 1850 to 1950. Granby Mining and Smelting operated in the area until it was sold to American Zinc in 1916. Approximately 160 mining operations were located in the Granby area, many being operated by one to two people on small, subleased mining plots. The area is characterized by mine shafts, tailings piles, and chat piles.

Site Activities

The cleanup activities will consist of excavating and removing lead contaminated soil, replacing the soil with clean soil and restoring the yards. Residential yards with lead levels over 2,500 parts per million (ppm) will be excavated. Play areas at child care facilities with lead levels over 500 ppm will also be excavated. Garden soils over 500 ppm total lead and 25 ppm cadmium, will be excavated.

During the excavation, the soils will be sampled to determine the extent of contamination. Once a 12-inch excavation level is reached, and contamination is still over the action levels, excavation will stop and a permanent physical barrier (heavy orange plastic mesh) will be installed. This barrier will show that soil below the barrier is contaminated.

The excavated contaminated soils will be placed in a repository. All contaminated soils and materials will be properly disposed of. The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil and the areas restored. The cleanup activities will take about six weeks to complete.

Additional Information

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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